



NEWS FROM NOAA

NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION • US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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NOAA ANNOUNCES \$200,000 GRANT FOR SALT MARSH RESTORATION IN DENNIS, MASSACUHSETTS

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) awarded a \$200,000 grant to the Town of Dennis, Mass. to support a community-based project to design and implement the restoration of a degraded 57-acre salt marsh and fish run.

The project, funded by the Community-based Restoration Program within the NOAA Fisheries Service, will enhance tidal inundation and circulation to the salt marsh and improve an anadromous fish run by replacing a failing, undersized pipe beneath Bridge Street in Dennis with a much larger structure.

"Replacing the existing undersized culvert with a larger structure that will put more water onto the marsh surface will enhance the marsh and the ability of anadromous fish to access upstream areas for spawning," said Patricia Kurkul, NOAA Fisheries Service Northeast regional administrator. "We are pleased to support the efforts of the Town of Dennis and the project partners to design and implement this restoration project."

"This NOAA grant, and the excellent habitat restoration technical assistance that comes with it, will help the Town of Dennis and its project partners to complete this restoration project," said George MacDonald, Dennis Natural Resources officer. "This is the second active salt marsh/anadromous fish run restoration project we now have underway with technical and financial assistance from the NOAA Community-Based Restoration Program. Together, we are working to improve coastal habitats and foster environmental stewardship by the local community."

The NOAA Restoration Center Community-based Restoration Program is a financial and technical assistance program that promotes strong partnerships at the national, regional and local level to restore fisheries habitat. NOAA CRP works with organizations and government to support locally-driven habitat restoration projects in marine, estuarine and riparian areas. NOAA CRP funds on-the-ground habitat restoration projects that (1) offer educational and social benefits for citizens and their communities, and (2) provide long-term ecological benefits for fishery resources. Since 1996, more than 900 projects in 26 states have been implemented using NOAA funding and leveraged funding from national and regional habitat restoration partners.

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Each year, NOAA awards approximately \$900 million in grants to members of the academic, scientific, and business communities to assist the agency in fulfilling its mission to study the Earth's natural systems in order to predict environmental change, manage ocean resources, protect life and property, and provide decision makers with reliable scientific information. NOAA goals and programs reflect a commitment to these basic responsibilities of science and service to the nation for the past 35 years.

NOAA, an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce, is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and providing environmental stewardship of our nation's coastal and marine resources.

On the Web:

NOAA: <http://www.noaa.gov>

Community-based Restoration Program: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/restoration>